

Appl. No. : 10/677,757
Filed : October 1, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 18 as follows:

Please add New Claims 23-29 as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A releasable medical line securement device, comprising:
 - a retainer having a base and an adhesive layer;
 - a plurality of posts disposed upon the base of the retainer and extending away from a side of the base of the retainer opposite the side of the base of the retainer to which the adhesive layer is disposed, each post comprising a shaft and a at least one protrusion disposed near the end of the shaft away from the base of the retainer;
 - at least one cap covering each post, each cap comprising a recess configured to receive the protrusion of one of the plurality of posts, the at least one cap being attached to the base of the retainer by a flexible connection, the cap having at least two configurations including a covered configuration in which the protrusion is at least partially disposed and secured within the recess of the cap, and an uncovered configuration in which the protrusion is not disposed within the recess of the cap.
2. **(Cancelled).**
3. **(Previously Presented)** A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1 wherein the protrusion is held within the recess of the at least one cap in the covered configuration by a snap-fit arrangement between the protrusion and the cap.
4. **(Original)** A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1 wherein the at least one cap further comprises a collar disposed at the open end of the recess and the size of the opening of the collar is smaller than a dimension of the protrusion of the post that is to be received within the recess of the cap.
5. **(Original)** A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1 further comprising an anchor pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, the retainer being disposed upon the upper surface of the anchor pad and the adhesive layer being disposed upon the lower surface of the anchor pad.
6. **(Original)** A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1 wherein the cap of the retainer further comprises a tab that extends from the cap to provide a surface upon which a medical practitioner may press to remove the cap from the post when the cap is in the covered configuration.

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7. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1 wherein the base, the at least one cap, and the plurality of posts of the retainer are integrally formed.

8. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement system, comprising:
a medical article having an elongated body and at least one hole disposed to a lateral side of the elongated body;

a retainer having a base and a plurality of posts disposed upon the base of the retainer and extending away from the base, each post comprising a shaft and an enlarged head disposed near the end of the shaft, and at least one cap covering each post, each cap comprising a recess configured to receive the enlarged head of one of the plurality of posts, the at least one cap being attached to the base of the retainer by a flexible connection, the cap having at least two configurations including a covered configuration in which the enlarged head of the post is at least partially disposed and secured within the recess of the cap, and an uncovered configuration in which the enlarged head of the post is not disposed within the recess of the cap,

such that each post of the retainer can be inserted through a hole of the medical article when the cap associated with the post is in the uncovered configuration, and the cap is able to be placed into the covered configuration when the post is inserted through the hole of the medical article.

9. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 wherein the size of the hole in the medical article is smaller than the size of the head of the post.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 wherein the head is held within the recess of the at least one cap in the covered configuration by a snap-fit arrangement between the head of the post and the cap.

12. (Original) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 wherein the at least one cap further comprises a collar disposed at the open end of the recess and the size of the opening of the collar is smaller than a lateral dimension of the head of the post that is to be received within the recess of the cap.

13. (Original) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 further comprising an anchor pad having an upper surface and a lower surface, the retainer being

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disposed upon the upper surface of the anchor pad and an adhesive layer being disposed upon a lower surface of the anchor pad.

14. (Original) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 wherein the cap of the retainer further comprises a tab that extends from the cap to provide a surface upon which a medical practitioner may press to remove the cap from the post when the cap is in the covered configuration.

15. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 wherein the base, the at least one cap, and the plurality of posts of the retainer are integrally formed.

16. (Original) A releasable medical line securement system as in Claim 8 wherein the medical article is inhibited from lateral and longitudinal motion when the post is placed through the hole of the medical article and the cap is in the covered position upon the post.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of releasably securing a medical article to a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a medical article having an elongated body and at least one hole disposed to a lateral side of the elongated body;

providing a retainer having a base and a plurality of posts disposed upon the base of the retainer and extending away from the base, each post comprising a shaft and an enlarged head disposed near the end of the shaft, and at least one cap covering each post, each cap comprising a recess configured to receive the enlarged head of one of the plurality of posts, the at least one cap being attached to the base of the retainer by a flexible connection, the cap having at least two configurations including a covered configuration in which the enlarged head of the post is at least partially disposed and secured within the recess of the cap, and an uncovered configuration in which the enlarged head of the post is not disposed within the recess of the cap;

placing the cap of the retainer in the uncovered configuration;

placing the medical article onto the retainer such that each post of the retainer is inserted through a hole of the medical article;

placing each cap of the retainer into the covered configuration.

18. (Currently Amended) A releasable medical line securement device, comprising:
a retainer having a base and an adhesive layer;

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a plurality of posts disposed upon the base of the retainer and extending away from a side of the base of the retainer opposite the side of the base of the retainer to which the adhesive layer is disposed, each post comprising a shaft and a ~~at least one~~ protrusion disposed near the end of the shaft away from the base of the retainer; and

a plurality of caps covering the plurality of posts, each cap comprising a recess configured to receive the protrusion of one of the plurality of posts, each cap being attached to the base of the retainer by a flexible connection and having at least two configurations including a covered configuration in which the protrusion is disposed within the recess of the cap and covered by the cap, and an uncovered configuration in which the protrusion is not disposed within the recess of the cap.

19. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1, wherein the protrusion extends to the same extent around an entire circumference of the post.

20. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1, wherein the protrusion extends in a lateral direction from the post but not in a longitudinal direction from the post.

21. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the shaft has a cylindrical shape.

22. (Previously Presented) A releasable medical line securement device as in Claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the protrusion is larger than a diameter of the shaft.

23. (New) A method for securing a medical article to a patient comprising:
adhering a base to a patient's skin, the base supporting a plurality of upwardly extending posts, each post having a head disposed near a terminal end of the post, each head defining an overhang surface;

positioning the medical article on the base between the plurality of upwardly extending posts such that at least a portion of the medical article lies below the overhang surfaces of the posts;

securing the medical article to the base by expanding a plurality of openings about the heads of the plurality of upwardly extending posts;

passing the heads of the plurality of posts through the corresponding openings;
and

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relaxing each expanded opening about the corresponding post such that the relaxed opening lies between the respective overhang surface of each head and the base, whereby the overhang surface inhibits the corresponding head from inadvertently passing back through the opening.

24. (New) The method of Claim 23 further comprising positioning a cap above the head, the opening being part of the cap.

25. (New) The method of Claim 24 further comprising bending a flexible connection to position the cap above the head, the flexible connection coupling the cap to the base.

26. (New) The method of Claim 24 further comprising positioning at least a portion of the post into a recess in the corresponding cap, the opening defining an entrance to the recess.

27. (New) The method of Claim 23 further comprising positioning a plurality of caps above the heads of the plurality of upwardly extending posts, the openings being formed in separate caps.

28. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein positioning the medical article on the base comprises placing the medical article between four posts spaced on the base at four corners of a rectangle.

29. (New) The method of Claim 23 further comprising inserting the posts through a plurality of holes in the medical article, the plurality of holes being disposed to the lateral sides of the medical article.